

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION

Washington Mutual Bank,	:	Case No. 3:07CV1434
Plaintiff,	:	
v.	:	<u>MAGISTRATE’S REPORT</u>
Randy S. Kopke, et al.,	:	<u>AND RECOMMENDATION</u>
Defendants.	:	

This foreclosure action filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 was referred to the undersigned magistrate for pretrial management and the filing of a report and recommendation. Pending is Plaintiff’s Motion for Default Judgment which is accompanied by a proposed order (Docket No. 20).

For the reasons that follow, the undersigned recommends that default judgment and decree of foreclosure be granted and that the lien of the Lucas County Treasurer be given appropriate priority as provided by Ohio law.

This action was filed on May 16, 2007, naming Randy S. Kopke, Lisa J. Kopke, Unknown Spouse of Randy S. Kopke, Unknown Spouse of Lisa J. Kopke, First Horizon Home Loan Corporation and Lucas County Treasurer as defendants. Defendants Randy S. Kopke and Lisa J. Kopke executed a promissory note and mortgage referenced in the complaint. Plaintiff is the holder of the note and mortgage which secures the amounts due under the note. As a result of defendants’

failure to timely pay the note, the note and mortgage are in default. Consequently, the conditions of the mortgage have been broken, and Plaintiff is entitled to have the equity of redemption and dower of the current title holder(s) foreclosed.

The undersigned further finds that the summons and complaint were properly served upon defendants; however, only the Lucas County Treasurer (Docket No. 8) has filed an answer or other responsive pleading. Consequently, the Clerk has entered default for each defendant other than the Lucas County Treasurer. The Unknown Spouse of Randy S. Kopke and the Unknown Spouse of Lisa J. Kopke were dismissed from the lawsuit on June 28, 2007 (Docket No. 19).

Based upon a review of the pleadings and supporting documents, the undersigned finds that the mortgage was recorded with the Lucas County Recorder and is a valid and subsisting first mortgage on the property; however, Plaintiff's mortgage is junior in priority under Ohio law to the lien held by the Lucas County Treasurer to secure the payment of real estate taxes and assessments. All amounts payable under Section 323.47 of the Ohio Revised Code shall be paid from the proceeds of the sale before any distribution is made to other lien holders.

The undersigned also finds that there is due on the note: 1) principal in the amount of \$182,633.77, plus interest on the principal at the rate of 7.883% per annum from February 1, 2007; all late charges imposed under the note; all advances made for the payment of real estate taxes and assessments and insurance premiums and all costs and expenses incurred for the enforcement of the note and mortgage except to the extent the payment of one or more specific such items is prohibited by Ohio law.

Accordingly the magistrate recommends that unless the sums found to be due to Plaintiff are fully paid within ten days from the date of the judgment entry and decree of foreclosure that:

judgment for the amount due on the note and mortgage be entered against Randy S. Kopke and Lisa J. Kopke, the equity of redemption of the defendant title holder(s) in the property shall be foreclosed and the property be sold free of the interests of all parties to this action subject to redemption by defendants pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 2329.33. If payment is not made as required, the magistrate recommends that an order of sale shall issue to a master commissioner, directing him/her to appraise, advertise and sell the property according to the law and orders of this Court and to report his /her proceedings to this Court.

The undersigned further recommends that the proposed judgment entry and decree of foreclosure (Docket No. 20) submitted by Plaintiff be entered.

So ordered.

/s/ Vernelis K. Armstrong
U. S. Magistrate Judge

Dated: August 27, 2007

Notice

Please take notice that as of this date the Magistrate's Report and Recommendation attached hereto has been filed.

Please be advised that, pursuant to Rule 72.3(b) of the Local Rules for this district, the parties have ten (10) days after being served in which to file objections to said Report and Recommendation. A party desiring to respond to an objection must do so within ten (10) days after the objection has been served.

Please be further advised that the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, in *United States v. Walters*,

638 F.2d 947 (6th Cir. 1981) held that failure to file a timely objection to a Magistrate's Report and Recommendation foreclosed appeal to the Court of Appeals. In *Thomas v. Arn*, 106 S.Ct. 466 (1985), the Supreme Court upheld that authority of the Court of Appeals to condition the right of appeal on the filing of timely objections to a Report and Recommendation.